

**Mental Health Planning Council  
8/1/03 Meeting Minutes**

**Members present:**

Rich Greb, Chair	X	Bill Jones	X
Libby Jones, Co-Chair		Phyllis Kennedy	X
Jimmie Arrington	X	Jeff McCloud	X
Mary Bethel	X	Dr. James Osberg	
Dorothy O'Neil		Pat Prescott	
Rochelle Edwards		Chris Rakes	X
Dan Fox	X	Frank Read	
Dr. Linner Ward Griffin	X	Osborne Shamberger	X
Kaye Holder		Paula Snipes	
Patricia Harris	X	Mary Reca Todd (Amy Cole representing)	X
John Hayes		Carolyn Wiser	X
Ellen Holliman	X	Laura Yates	
Bill Hussey		Guest: Peggy Balak	X
Diann Irwin	X	Guest: Lisa Gilbert	X
Lucy Dorsey	X	Guest: Chris Phillips, Chief of Advocacy	X
Support Staff: Julie Seibert	X	Support Staff: Amy Smiley	X

**Rich Greb, Chair**

Rich opened the meeting by asking the Council to share any comments on the June minutes. Everyone agreed that they covered all the issues discussed and the motion was made by Bill Jones to accept them. The vote was in favor and the minutes were approved.

Rich explained to the Council that the Mental Health Block Grant Report needed to be reviewed by the Council before submitting it to the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) by the December first deadline. The dilemma to discuss was that no November meeting was scheduled and that the December meeting would be too late. Bill Jones made the motion to move the December meeting to November so that the Council could review the Report and give input/recommendations. Jeff McCloud seconded the motion and it was voted to move the December meeting to November. The Council will meet November 7, 2003 in lieu of December 5, 2003.

**Guest Speaker: Lisa Gilbert, Executive Director of Housing Works:**

Lisa oriented the Council to "Housing Works" and the agency's role. They are a state-wide non-profit agency, contracted by the Division to increase North Carolina's supported housing capacity. Since 1997, Housing Works has provided assistance to approximately 17 local programs and has directly or indirectly facilitated the development of 60 housing units, with an additional 84 units in the planning stages.

Housing Works also plays a major role in facilitating partnerships between housing agencies and local mental health programs. During FY 2002, Housing authorities set aside 57 Section 8 vouchers for persons with disabilities and eight Section 8 vouchers for people with disabilities with Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers.

Lisa shared that Housing Works and the Division now have a new "Housing Incentive Funds Program" that utilizes funds from the Mental Health Housing Trust Fund to provide necessity based small grants for supported housing development. Eligible applicants are non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations. Grants will be awarded based on funding necessity, consumer involvement, project innovation, and geographic need.

Lisa also informed the Council that Housing Works is sponsoring a new "Consumer and Family Member Advisory Committee" to help direct their supported housing efforts. Council members provide staff feedback, work on projects of special interest, and review uses of Housing Trust Fund dollars.

**Jeff McCloud, Council Member**

Jeff provided an update to the Council on his trip to Washington, D.C. to the 2003 Mental Health Block Grant Conference. He shared with the Council that he attended workshops that were geared towards Planning Councils and their members and shared some concepts he learned. For example, he shared that Planning Councils are designed to "plan, advocate and monitor" mental health systems in their state. Amy obtained his handouts from the MHPC workshop and will make copies for everyone. Jeff also recommended that our Council have sub-committees to work more specifically on particular topics of interest.

**Julie Seibert, Division of MH/DD/SAS, Planning Team**

Julie provided to the Council the draft copy of the Mental Health Block Grant Plan for SFY 2003-2004. The entire criterion was reviewed for both the child section and the adult section. Julie also shared with the Council a copy of a document Amy Smiley wrote entitled "North Carolina Mental Health Planning Council Activities and Accomplishments", outlining the Planning Council events of the past fiscal year.

Upon reviewing the MHBG draft, the Council gave Rich Greb feedback as to their suggestions for the final draft and recommendations for inclusion in the Council's letter to Governor Easley. The following are some suggestions that were made:

- ◆ The Division give more consideration to how MHBG funds are allocated- either per capita or for "special programming and projects".

- ◆ NC should provide more focus to services to the elderly with SPMI.
- ◆ NC should continue to investigate provision of flexible funding to Area Programs to support family involvement in planning and policy making.
- ◆ Support for expenditure of MHBG funds for enhancing existing ACT Teams and developing an ACT Tam training site.
- ◆ Support for expenditure of MHBG funds for implementing the draft CMH plan including training in best practice services and support for developing best practice services such as Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and intensive in-home services.

After individual member updates were given, Rich asked the Council if there were any other requests for agenda items in future meetings. The following is a list of “follow-up” tasks the Council came up as suggestions for discussion in future meetings:

- ◆ An update on how the Special Assistance Pilot is working.
- ◆ An update on the Wright Building transitions and the outcomes of those patients.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.

The next meeting will be held October 3, 2003.